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AUSTRALIA
Patents Act 1990

NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT

We, B.C.D. MECANIQUE LTEE

of 1840, 1re Rue, Suite 102, St. Romuald, Quebec, Canada G6W 5M6

being the Applicant and the Nominated Person in respect of Application No. 36472/95, state the following:-

The person nominated for the grant of the patent:

has, for the following reasons, gained entitlement from the actual inventors:

The Nominated Person is entitled by Deed of Assignment between the inventors and the Nominated Person dated 13th June 1997

The person nominated for the grant of the patent is

entitled to rely on the application listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT.

The basic application listed on the patent request form referred to in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT is the first application made in a Convention country in respect of the invention.

Dated this 31st day of October 1997

BCD MECANIQUE LTEE
By their Patent Attorneys
COLLISON & CO.

HOWARD SCHULZE

TO
THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

WODEN ACT 2606



NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT

I/We, Marcel Huard

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of 1459 chemin du Fleuve, St. Romuald, Quebec, G6W 6Z6,
CANADA

the applicant and nominated person in respect of an application for a patent for an invention entitled:
Progressive Jackpot Gaming With Random Prize Generation

filed under Australian Application No. _____ state the following:

PART 1 - Must be completed for all applications.

The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent

☒ is ~~(are)~~ the actual inventor(s)

or

☐ ~~has, for the following reasons, gained entitlement from the actual inventor(s) -~~

PART 2 - Must be completed if the application is a Convention application.

The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent is (are):

☐ the applicant(s) of the basic application(s) listed on the patent request form

or

☐ entitled to rely on the basic application(s) listed on the patent request form by reason of the following:

PART 3 - Must be completed if the application was made under the PCT and claims priority

The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent is ~~(are)~~:

☒ the applicant(s) of the application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT

or

☐ entitled to rely on the application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT by reason of the following:

Dated this 4 day of APRIL

19 97

Signature

Signatory's Name

F.B. RICE & CO. PATENT ATTORNEYS

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NOTICE OF ENTITLEMENT

NAME Real Berube

address by

of 337, de l'Empress, Pointe-au-Pere, Quebec, G5M 1N1,
CANADA

the applicant and nominated person in respect of an application for a patent for an invention entitled
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filed under Australian Application No. state the following:

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The person(s) nominated for the grant of the patent is (are)

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or

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or

☐ entitled to rely on the application(s) listed in the declaration under Article 8 of the PCT by reason of the following:

Dated this 04 day of 4 APRIL 19 97

Signature Real Berube

Signatory's Name BERUBE REAL



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- (56) Prior Art Documents
US 5344144
US 5332219
US 5282620

(57) Claim

1. An apparatus for playing an auxiliary prize game played along with a principal casino game played by a dealer and a plurality of players seated at a plurality of player positions at a casino gaming table (15), the players possessing a number of gaming symbols as a result of playing said principal casino game, the apparatus comprising:

input means (16) for generating a game state signal in response to a dealer command input;

random selection means (26,28,30) for generating at random a value representing at least one of:

(a) a set of said player positions, said set consisting of at least one of none, some or all of said player positions,

(b) a winning set of gaming symbols associated with normal play of said principal casino game,

(c) an amount of a prize to be won in said auxiliary game; and

selection indicating means (24,18) for indicating based on said value and in response to said state signal at least one of: ones of said player positions having been selected;

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the selected winning set of gaming symbols; and the selected prize amount, whereby players enjoy an extra random component in the determination of winnings in said auxiliary prize game.

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PCT

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/CA95 00577 (22) International Filing Date: 16 October 1995 (16.10.95) (30) Priority Data: 08/323,672 18 October 1994 (18.10.94) US (71)(72) Applicants and Inventors: HUARD, Marcel (CA/CA); 1459, chemin du Fleuve, St. Romuald, Québec G6W 6Z6 (CA). BERUBE, Réal (CA/CA); 337, de l'Empress, Pointe-au-Père, Québec G5M 1N1 (CA). (74) Agent: ANGLEHART, James; Swabey Ogilvy Renault, Suite 1600, 1981 McGill College Avenue, Montréal, Québec H3A 2Y3 (CA). L71) B.C.D. MÉCANIQUE LTÉE 1840 1re Rue, SUITE 102, St ROMUALD, QUÉBEC, CANADA G6W 5M6</p>		<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG), ARIPO patent (KE, MW, SD, SZ, UG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limits for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 1 August 1996 (01.08.96)</p>
<p>(54) Title: PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT GAMING WITH RANDOM PRIZE GENERATION (57) Abstract <p>A progressive jackpot game provides an auxiliary opportunity for players at a casino to win a prize from the progressive jackpot by participating with a relatively small contribution to the progressive jackpot each time they play a round in the principal casino game. To increase the element of random chance or luck in winning a prize from the progressive jackpot game, a method and apparatus is provided for randomly choosing a winning card or combination of cards, or randomly selecting a person or group of persons eligible to win upon possession of the card or combination of cards. The amount of the prize can also be randomly selected either as a fixed amount or percentage of the progressive jackpot.</p></p>		



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PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT GAMING WITH RANDOM PRIZE GENERATION

Technical Field

5 The present invention relates to a method and
apparatus for controlling an auxiliary game or a
progressive jackpot game which is part of a live casino
game. More particularly, the invention relates to a
method and apparatus for selecting a prize at random for
10 participants in the auxiliary or progressive jackpot
game.

Background Art

15 A progressive jackpot game is an auxiliary game to
a casino game in which an extra bet is placed at the
time of placing a normal bet for the casino game. If the
casino game player obtains a predetermined combination
of cards or the like, and the player has decided to
participate in the progressive jackpot game, then the
player wins a portion of the progressive jackpot. The
20 jackpot is progressive because it increases in value as
players contribute to it by participating with the extra
bet from one round or hand of the main game to the next.
The extra bet is a fixed amount.

25 An appeal of the progressive jackpot is that an
additional chance to win is presented in which gaming
skill of the player or dealer is not an issue. For
example, in a poker card game, the progressive jackpot
player can win if he or she has any one of a
predetermined number of high scoring hands. Usually,
30 these high scoring hands would result in a win at the
poker game. However, whether or not the high scoring
hand will beat all other hands at the table is not
important since it will qualify for a progressive
jackpot win. Moreover, a player can only win in poker in
35 proportion to his bet. The progressive jackpot game
allows a player to bet modestly and yet win a

substantial prize if his hand turns out to be high scoring. provided that he continues to place the small extra bet to participate in the progressive jackpot.

- 5 US patent 4,861,041 to Jones et al. describes a progressive jackpot gaming method and apparatus in which winner selection is based solely on possession of any one of a few predetermined high scoring card arrangements by a participant.

Summary of Invention

- It has been found that winner selection by possession of one of a few
- 1 () predetermined high scoring arrangements of cards lacks a certain appeal to players who are willing to take a chance on the extra bet for the progressive jackpot, but who do not expect to obtain a high scoring hand. A more random method of winners selection would be more appealing to players participating in a progressive jackpot auxiliary game, because when the winner selection is
- 1 5 more random, then anyone can win. The auxiliary game according to the invention may have a prize amount proportional to a total amount of contributions collected (i.e. a progressive jackpot) or a fixed prize amount independent of an amount of contributions collected or of an amount of previously unawarded contributions.
- 2 () According to one form of the invention, there is provided a method and/or apparatus for selecting at random an element determining a winner in a progressive jackpot game. The element can be simply a player's position (seat), or a given card or combination of cards held by participants in the casino, at a table among all tables in the casino, or by a given participant. For
- 2 5 example, blackjack players at three different tables may all participate in a progressive jackpot. Predetermined prizes (i.e. percentages of the jackpot) are awarded to all participants who have high scoring hands, such as



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blackjack, twenty-one, or twenty with more than four cards. In addition to these prizes, a card is selected at random, and any participant (winner or loser) having this card in his hand wins a prize of a predetermined or
5 randomly decided value. Similarly, the value of the prize can be increased, and the prize will be awarded to only participants at a randomly selected one of the three tables. Additionally, a given participant can be selected and a single card can be selected as the
10 winning card for the progressive win. As can be appreciated, the perceived chance of winning comprises more luck than skill in the principal casino game.

The invention provides a progressive jackpot game in which a prize is determined by one or more of the
15 following:

- i) randomly choosing the winning card or combination of cards at the end of the principal game;
- ii) randomly selecting at the end of the principal game from all participants one of the following: a)
20 directly a winner; b) a single participant who may win if in possession of the card or combination of cards determined in i); and c) a table whose participants may win if in possession of the card or combination of cards determined in i); and
- 25 iii) randomly selecting the amount of the prize either as a random fixed amount or a random percentage of the jackpot.

As mentioned above, a high scoring hand usually implies that a player will win whether he or she has
30 participated in the progressive jackpot or not. The invention extends the chance of winning the jackpot to both winners and losers, which encourages players to participate in the progressive jackpot with every hand. In the case that the prize winner or potential prize
35 winner is selected at random, it is also possible according to the invention to select a player among all

- players at random, whereby the selected player cannot win unless he or she also participated in the progressive jackpot game. This reminds all players that they may miss their chance unless they participate in the progressive
- 5 jackpot with every hand, especially when they witness a potential winner "miss out" because he or she did not participate.

Additionally, a player may be picked at random and given an opportunity, free of charge, to participate in the progressive jackpot game.

- According to a further form of the invention, there is provided an apparatus for
- 1 0 determining a progressive jackpot prize winner among players of a principal casino game, comprising input means for inputting a state of the principal casino game, the state being after a beginning of the principal casino game, and means connected to the input means for randomly selecting at least one of the players and indicating eligibility of the players selected to win a prize.
- 1 5 The invention also provides an apparatus for determining a progressive jackpot prize winner among players of a principal casino card game, comprising input means for inputting a state of the principal casino game, the state being after a beginning of the principal casino card game, and means for randomly picking and displaying one of a winning card and a winning
- 2 0 combination of cards, whereby eligible players must possess the winning card or combination of cards to collect the prize. There is further provided according to the invention, an apparatus for determining a progressive jackpot prize winner among players of the principal casino game, comprising input means for inputting a state of the principal casino game, the state being after a
- 2 5 beginning of the principal casino game, and prize selecting means for randomly determining the prize to be awarded from the progressive jackpot.

- According to yet another aspect of the invention there is provided an apparatus for playing an auxiliary prize game played along with a principal casino game played by a dealer and a plurality of players seated at a plurality
- 3 0 of player positions at a casino gaming table, the players possessing a number of gaming symbols as a result of playing said principal casino game, the apparatus comprising:



input means for generating a game state signal in response to a dealer command input;

5 random selection means for generating at random a value representing at least one of:

(a) a set of said player positions, said set consisting of at least one of none, some or all of said player positions.

(b) a winning set of gaming symbols associated with normal
10 play of said principal casino game.

(c) an amount of a prize to be won in said auxiliary game; and
selection indicating means for indicating based on said value and in response to said state signal at least one of: ones of said player positions having been selected; the selected winning set of gaming symbols; and the
15 selected prize amount, whereby players enjoy an extra random component in the determination of winnings in said auxiliary prize game.

Preferably, said apparatus further comprises an indicator means provided at each position of said players for indicating whether a player at each position has contributed an amount at the beginning of said principal game to
20 participate in the auxiliary game, said indicator means being reset at an end of said principal game.

Preferably said indicator means include a token accepting apparatus and a light at each position of said players.

Preferably said random selection means randomly select a group of said
25 players whose positions are located at a common gaming table of said principal game.

Preferably said principal casino game is a card game, said gaming symbols represent playing cards, and said random selection means select a winning playing card symbol, whereby eligible players must possess the winning card
30 to collect the prize.



Preferably said principal casino game is a card game, said gaming symbols represent playing cards, and said random selection means select a winning hand or combination of playing card symbols, whereby eligible players must
5 possess the winning card combination to collect the prize.

Preferably said selected prize amount is a maximum prize amount to be awarded, said selection indicating means comprising display means for displaying said maximum prize amount.

Preferably said auxiliary prize is a cumulative jackpot whose value is a
10 function of player contribution, said maximum prize amount being calculated as a random percentage of a total value of said progressive jackpot.

Preferably said state signal is at an end of said principal game, said indicator means comprising a reset switch for resetting said indicator means after determination of winners in said auxiliary game.

15 In a yet further form of the invention there is provided a method for playing an auxiliary prize game played along with a principal casino game played by a plurality of players located at a plurality of player positions around a casino table, each one of said players possessing a number of gaming symbols as a result of playing said principal casino game, said auxiliary prize game being
20 played at the same time as playing the principal casino game, the method comprising the following steps:

choosing at random at least one of:

(a) a winning set of gaming symbols associated with normal play of said principal casino game,

25 (b) an amount of a prize to be won in the auxiliary game, and

(c) at least one of none, one and a plurality of said player positions;

playing said principal casino game to its normal conclusion;

30 displaying to said players at least one of said winning set of gaming symbols, said prize amount, and said chosen player positions;



determining as being eligible to win a prize in said auxiliary game ones of said players fulfilling one of the conditions of: possessing gaming symbols matching said winning set of gaming symbols, possessing gaming symbols matching a predetermined set of gaming symbols, and being located at one of said chosen player positions; and

awarding one of a predetermined amount and said randomly chosen prize amount as said prize to said players determined to be eligible in the previous step.

Preferably ones of said players not having paid to participate in the auxiliary game are excluded from being eligible to win said prize.

Preferably said step of choosing comprises choosing both said winning set of gaming symbols and said chosen player positions, said step of awarding further comprising awarding a bonus prize amount to ones of said players possessing gaming symbols matching said winning set of gaming symbols who are also located at one of said chosen player positions.

Preferably said prize amount is a maximum amount of a prize in the auxiliary prize game, said step of awarding comprises awarding a predetermined fraction of said maximum prize amount to said players determined to be eligible.

Preferably, the method further comprises the steps of:
accepting an auxiliary game participation amount from ones of said players who want to participate in said auxiliary prize game; and
indicating which one of said players have given said participation amount and are participating in said auxiliary game; wherein said step of determining includes excluding ones of said players who are not participating as being eligible to win.

Preferably said principal casino game is a card game and said gaming symbols represent playing cards.

Brief Description of Drawings

The invention will be better understood by way of the following detailed description of a preferred embodiment with reference to the appended drawing, in
5 which:

Fig. 1 is a block diagram of a progressive jackpot prize winner determining apparatus according to the preferred embodiment.

10 Description of Preferred Embodiments

First, the structure of the apparatus according to the preferred embodiment will be described, and thereafter the method of playing the progressive jackpot game will be described.

15 As shown in Fig. 1, the invention according to the preferred embodiment comprises at each casino card table 15 a plurality 'n' of player positions each having a token acceptor 14, and a play indicator LED 22 for indicating whether the player has put a token into
20 acceptor 14 and is participating in the progressive jackpot game. An additional chosen LED 24 indicates whether the player has been chosen on a random basis to be eligible for winning a progressive jackpot prize. When a player wishes to participate in the progressive
25 jackpot game, he or she inserts a token or coin into the acceptor 14. Once the game has started as indicated by the dealer using the keypad 16, the controller 10 signals on line 40 to lock the token acceptors from further accepting tokens (i.e. a solenoid blocking
30 mechanism is included in the token acceptor slot).

At each gaming table, there is provided a controller 10 which is connected by buses 40,42,44,46 to units 14,22,24 at each player of the table. The controller 10 is connected to a keypad 16 by which the
35 dealer at the table operates the progressive jackpot game for the table, namely he inputs using the keypad 16

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when the card game is at an end, when the next game is ready to start (i.e. ready to accept tokens for participating in the progressive jackpot game) and when the principal card game is under way. A random player selector 26 includes a random number generator for selecting at random one of the players at the table, either assuming there may be a player at all positions at the table or taking into account which players are present as entered by the dealer at keypad 16.

10 A winning "magic" card or combination of cards are picked anew for each card game round using a random number generator 28 picking cards from a virtual deck of cards. Of course, cards from an actual deck could also be picked. Picking from an actual deck of cards can be
15 done at random using a mechanical card selection device. Computer software card games which randomly pick cards from a virtual deck of cards are known in the art. The value of the prize which may be won by the chosen player having the picked magic card or combination of cards is
20 determined by random prize selector 30. Of course, the prize may be a percentage of the progressive jackpot or a fixed amount.

A display 18 is also connected to controller 10 for displaying the magic card or the combination of cards
25 which are eligible to win, as well as the position of the player who is eligible to win and the amount which can be won. The display 18 can be a monitor placed in a location where both the dealer and the players can see it.

30 A master controller 12 is provided for controlling the progressive jackpot game for a group of tables or even for the whole casino. An input keyboard 34 is connected to controller 12 for command input. One or more wall display units 20 are also connected to the
35 controller 12 for showing the amount of the progressive jackpot. Since the controller 12 can also decide on a

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random basis which tables are selected to be eligible to win, a random table selector 32 is provided. Table selection can be weighted based on participation at each table. A report printer 36 is also connected to
5 controller 12 for printing up daily performance reports.

As can be appreciated, the table controller 10 and units 16,18,26,28,30 could be integrated into a personal computer provided with a controller I/O card for the buses 40,42,44,46, network communications link between
10 the computer and the master controller 12, and the appropriate control software. The master controller 12 can also be controlled remotely via a modem 35. In this way, it would even be possible to have a progressive jackpot shared among several casinos with one computer
15 centrally controlling the master controllers 12 at various casino locations by modems 35.

An example of the operation of the preferred embodiment will now be described. The object of the progressive jackpot game is to add to the principal
20 casino game an additional chance of winning which is distinct from the principal game. This may be done in one of two ways. First, the chance of winning in the progressive jackpot game is unrelated to the chance of winning in the casino game. Second, the chance of
25 winning a much larger bonus prize from the progressive jackpot is present when a high scoring arrangement of cards is obtained even if the amount bet in the principal game was small. An example of the first way is a loser in the principal game who participates in the
30 progressive jackpot and possesses the winning cards for the progressive jackpot win on the basis of randomly picked cards. An example of the second way is the player who participates in the progressive jackpot and obtains the highest scoring card combination, such as a Royal
35 Flush in poker or a given combination totaling twenty-one in blackjack. In the first way, the progressive

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jackpot win is achieved by chance unrelated to the principal game. In the second way, the jackpot win is a bonus to what should be a winning hand in the principal game. In the example, both ways of winning are combined.

5 Ultimately, the player who participates in the progressive jackpot game loses none of the excitement and rewards of the principal game while gaining an additional incentive to continue playing.

10 In the present invention, there is an additional random element associated with winning a progressive jackpot prize. The system can choose at random any player or participant, or table of players to be eligible to win the random bonus prize. All players who pay to participate in the progressive jackpot game will
15 win if in possession of the predetermined high scoring card combinations. In the case of poker, these combinations are: royal flush, straight flush, four of a kind, full house and flush. The prize awarded for these combinations are a percentage of the total progressive
20 jackpot, the percentage being different for each combination as an inverse proportion to the chances of obtaining the combination. The jackpot is incremented in value each time a player participates by an amount which is less than the amount of the token accepted for
25 participation.

The random bonus prize can be a small fixed amount and can be won by all participants having a picked card termed the magic card. In poker, a player has five cards and the odds of having one of 52 cards is about 1:10.
30 For poker players, the prize may be small, such as 4 tokens. This prize could be paid, or simply be given as a credit to the player's position for future participation. In twenty-one, most players will take only a few cards, so the odds of having the magic card
35 without busting are smaller. For twenty-one players, the

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prize could be 12 tokens. Again the prize could be paid or taken in credits.

5 The invention also allows for more interesting versions of the random bonus prize determination. For instance, the master controller can select a table at random in the casino to be a grand prize winner. The selected table could announce to participants after accepting tokens for the game that the magic card bonus prize value is significantly larger, namely ten times
10 greater. Alternatively, the master controller could simply instruct the table controller 10 of the selected table to pick at random one of its participants for the purposes of awarding a bonus prize without any requirement of possession of a given card.

15 The random card picker 28 at each table can also be used to pick out two cards at random from the virtual deck as being the magic cards. Possession of two cards involves much lower odds, and the play back for the two card combination can be significant, e.g. 20 tokens in
20 the case of poker. The random card combination can also be one of a set of card combinations having a medium scoring value, e.g. a red or black pair of any rank, a pair of rank ten or greater, and three of a kind. The value of the prize awarded can take into consideration
25 the odds of having the particular combination of cards selected.

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus for playing an auxiliary prize game played along with a principal casino game played by a dealer and a plurality of players seated at a plurality of player positions at a casino gaming table (15), the players possessing a number of gaming symbols as a result of playing said principal casino game, the apparatus comprising:

input means (16) for generating a game state signal in response to a dealer command input;

random selection means (26,28,30) for generating at random a value representing at least one of:

- (a) a set of said player positions, said set consisting of at least one of none, some or all of said player positions,
- (b) a winning set of gaming symbols associated with normal play of said principal casino game,
- (c) an amount of a prize to be won in said auxiliary game; and

selection indicating means (24,18) for indicating based on said value and in response to said state signal at least one of: ones of said player positions having been selected; the selected winning set of gaming symbols; and the selected prize amount, whereby players enjoy an extra random component in the determination of winnings in said auxiliary prize game.

2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising indicator means (22) provided at each position of said players for indicating whether a player at each position has contributed an amount at the beginning of said principal game to participate in the auxiliary game, said indicator means being reset at an end of said principal game.

3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said indicator means include a token accepting apparatus (14) and a light at each position of said players.

4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said random selection means randomly select a group of said players whose



positions are located at a common gaming table (15) of said principal game.

5 5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said principal casino game is a card game, said gaming symbols represent playing cards, and said random selection means select a winning playing card symbol, whereby eligible players must possess the winning card to collect the prize.

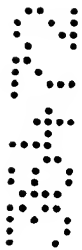
6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said principal casino game is a card game, said gaming symbols represent playing cards, and said random selection means select a winning hand or combination of playing card symbols, whereby eligible players must possess the winning card combination to collect the prize.

7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein said selected prize amount is a maximum prize amount to be awarded, said selection indicating means comprising display means for displaying said maximum prize amount.

8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein said auxiliary prize is a cumulative jackpot whose value is a function of player contribution, said maximum prize amount being calculated as a random percentage of a total value of said progressive jackpot.

9. The apparatus as claimed in claim 2 or 3, wherein said state signal is at an end of said principal game, said indicator means comprising a reset switch for resetting said indicator means after determination of winners in said auxiliary game.

10. A method for playing an auxiliary prize game played along with a principal casino game played by a plurality of players located at a plurality of player positions around a casino table, each one of said players possessing a number of gaming symbols as a result of playing said principal casino game, said auxiliary prize game being played at the same time as



playing the principal casino game, the method comprising the following steps:

choosing at random at least one of:

- 5 (a) a winning set of gaming symbols associated with normal play of said principal casino game,
- (b) an amount of a prize to be won in the auxiliary game, and
- (c) at least one of none, one and a plurality of said player positions;

10 playing said principal casino game to its normal conclusion;

displaying to said players at least one of said winning set of gaming symbols, said prize amount, and said chosen player positions;

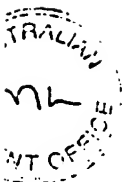
15 determining as being eligible to win a prize in said auxiliary game ones of said players fulfilling one of the conditions of: possessing gaming symbols matching said winning set of gaming symbols, possessing gaming symbols matching a predetermined set of gaming symbols, and being located at one
20 of said chosen player positions; and

awarding one of a predetermined amount and said randomly chosen prize amount as said prize to said players determined to be eligible in the previous step.

25 11. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein ones of said players not having paid to participate in the auxiliary game are excluded from being eligible to win said prize.

30 12. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said step of choosing comprises choosing both said winning set of gaming symbols and said chosen player positions, said step of awarding further comprising awarding a bonus prize amount to ones of said players possessing gaming symbols matching said winning set of gaming symbols who are also located at one of
35 said chosen player positions.

13. The method as claimed in claim 10, wherein said prize amount is a maximum amount of a prize in the auxiliary prize game, said step of awarding comprises awarding a predetermined



fraction of said maximum prize amount to said players determined to be eligible.

14. The method as claimed in claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
 5 accepting an auxiliary game participation amount from ones of said players who want to participate in said auxiliary prize game; and
 indicating which one of said players have given said participation amount and are participating in said auxiliary game; wherein said step of determining includes excluding ones of said players who are not participating
 10 as being eligible to win.

15. The method as claimed in claim 10, 11, 12, 13 or 14, wherein said principal casino game is a card game and said gaming symbols represent playing cards.

16. An apparatus for playing an auxiliary prize game along with a
 15 principal casino game substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

17. A method for playing an auxiliary prize game along with a principal casino game substantially as hereinbefore described and with reference to the accompanying drawings.

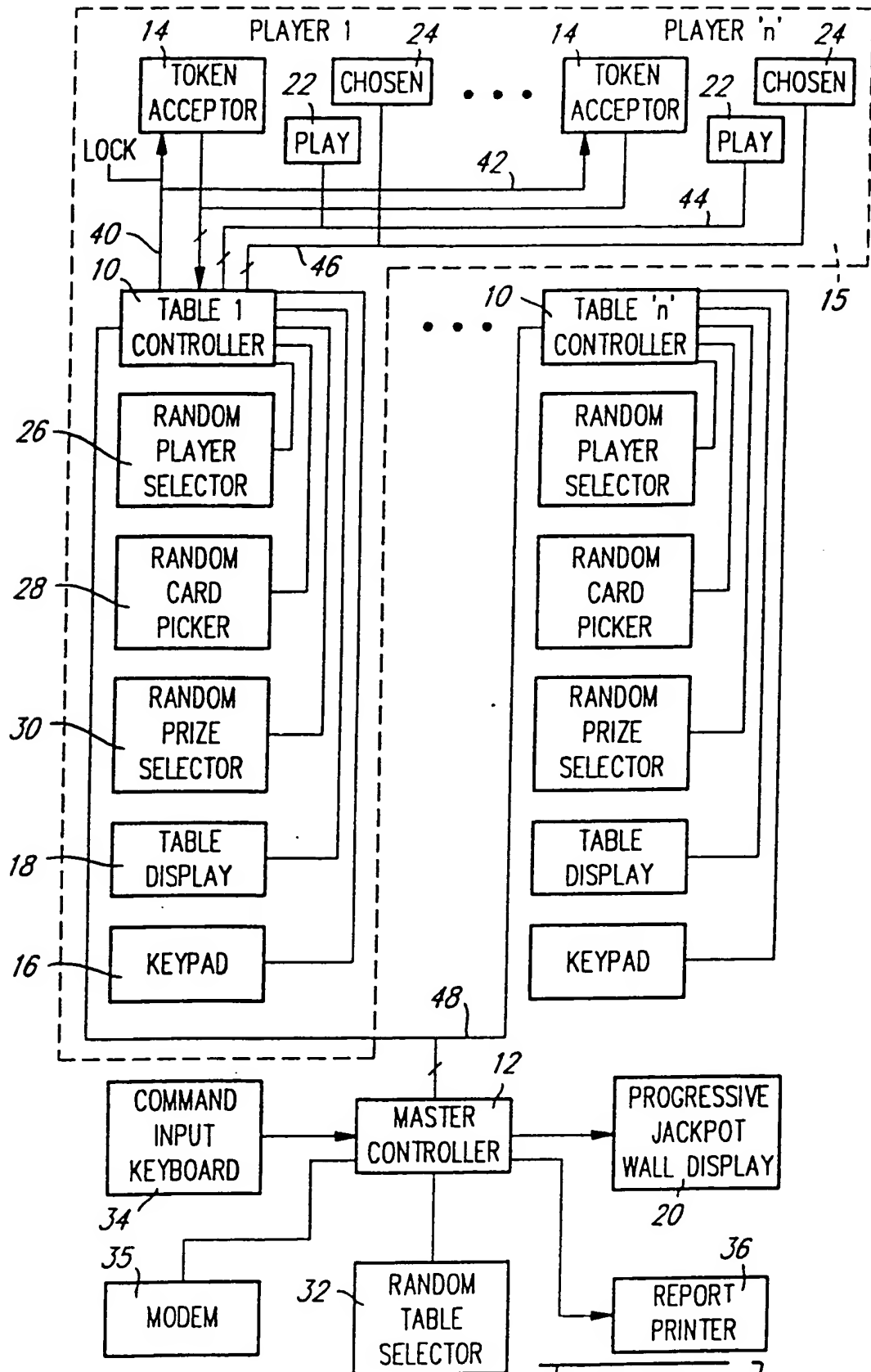
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Dated this 31st day of October 1997

B.C.D. MECANIQUE LTEE
 By their Patent Attorneys
 COLLISON & CO.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No.

PCT/CA 95/00577

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 A63F3/00 A63F9/24 A63F1/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 A63F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US,A,5 282 620 (KEESE) 1 February 1994 see column 2, line 32 - line 54 ---	1,9,16, 18,20,21
A	US,A,5 332 219 (MARNELL II, ET AL.) 26 July 1994 see column 4, line 43 - column 5, line 25 ---	1,9,16, 18,20,21
A	US,A,5 098 107 (BOYLAN ET AL.) 24 March 1992 see column 17, line 31 - line 46 ---	1,9,16, 18,20,21
A	US,A,5 344 144 (CANON) 6 September 1994 -----	

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

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"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 May 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No.

PCT/CA 95/00577

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US-A-5332219	26-07-94	NONE	
US-A-5098107	24-03-92	AU-B- 664361	16-11-95
		AU-B- 1466492	21-10-92
		WO-A- 9216269	01-10-92
		US-A- 5257784	02-11-93
		US-A- 5265877	30-11-93
US-A-5344144	06-09-94	NONE	